

## The Times - Dispatch

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 of Congress of March 3, 1879.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1912.

## EXTEND MONUMENT AVENUE.

Monument Avenue should be extended west from Rosemeath Road, in accordance with the recommendation of the subcommittee of the Street Committee. The members of the committee were unanimous in advising the purchase of a right of way through the Forbes property at a cost of \$15,000, which, with the addition of the right of way offered by all the other land owners, will permit the city's principal boulevard to be built for some three miles beyond its present terminus. For this sum a tract 1,500 feet long by 140 feet wide will be devoted to the new highway, and, in addition, land will be dedicated for the extension of Grace and Franklin Streets and Park Avenue.

The reasons why this should be done are obvious to every one who believes in the future of Richmond. The city is bound to grow in this direction, and the money already spent on improving Monument Avenue should not be lost part of its value by the failure to complete the street in the most beautiful and natural way. This can never be done so cheaply again, if indeed it can be done, in a direct line, at all. Neglect of the present opportunity will mean one of two evils: either the avenue will have to be deflected from its straight and impressive sweep for miles, or at a later date expensive condemnation proceedings will have to be brought to acquire at a far higher cost what is offered now. It is not impossible that property owners will build houses to take advantage of the attractiveness that the avenue already adds to this section, and so make the extension impossible.

This noble boulevard will have the effect of greatly increasing the beauty of Richmond and adding to the value of property that, sooner or later, must be a part of the city. Every dollar spent now will be recovered and the city will meanwhile have the pleasure of owning a beautiful parkway. It is true that part of the improvement will be in the county, but that should make no difference as long as Richmond will reap the benefits of every cent expended. Moreover, this region will some day be a part of the city in fact, as it is now in use. The value of lands owned by individuals will doubtless be increased, but this is a small matter compared to the far greater increase in pride and pleasure that will result to every citizen.

Other cities are now paying the costly price of a lack of foresight in these matters. Richmond is in position to profit by their experience. The need of boulevards and imposing approaches is universally admitted. She is beginning to expand with all her possibilities before her. It is a matter of spending a small sum of money and making possible one of the show streets of the country, or risking a narrow avenue that will be a perpetual eyesore and regret.

## AMUNDSEN AND SCOTT.

British disappointment over the fact that Amundsen reached the South Pole ahead of Captain Scott—assuming, in saying "ahead of," as is entirely competent, that the latter has since reached it—is altogether natural. However, without the slightest inclination to sympathize with and disposition to minimize or detract from the brilliancy of the Norwegian's spectacular dash to the goal, it must be conceded that on the whole and in the end Scott's promises to be by far the greater and most useful achievement. Indeed, no one can compare the copyrighted cable narratives of the two explorers as printed in The Times-Dispatch without recognizing that already Scott has obtained much more substantial and valuable results than were reported by his rival; also, that there appears every assurance that still greater results of the same character will reward his expedition before he returns to civilization. And naturally so.

Amundsen's primary aim was to attain the southern ultimate. His secondary was incidental exploration and scientific observation. The reverse was the case with Scott. The British expedition was in every detail the most thoroughly equipped for its paramount object that ever entered either the northern or the southern frozen zone. This is true no less as respects food supply, modes of transportation and appliances and instruments for scientific experimentation and exploration, than as regards the personnel and number of its scientific staff.

In the Scott narrative, published in our issues of Tuesday and Wednesday, it was shown that even before the date of its dispatch to the Nova Terra most important discoveries had been made in the fields of geology and mineralogy, and much new and most interesting meteorological and geographical data had been collected. During his southward march Scott seems

to have sent out from the main body numerous small parties for "special" work, thus covering an unusually large area of exploration and observation.

Penetration towards the South Pole under such weather conditions as favored Shackleton and Amundsen, and in view of the land substratum of Antarctica, is admittedly much easier, relatively, than advance towards the antipodal geographical point. With the attainment of the southern objective, the Norwegian practically finished the task he had undertaken—the chief and overshadowing part of the task at least. No so with the Englishman. His decision to remain in the paleo-crystalline realm for another year proves that he considers that his labors have practically only begun, and accentuates the fact that reaching the pole was the secondary consideration with him.

Scott could have but one motive in so deciding, and that is to prosecute exploration proper on a wide scope, with a view to erecting from as large an expanse of Antarctica as possible any secrets the continent still locks in its frozen embrace which will add to the sum of human knowledge. Some of these secrets—keys to which he now holds—may not be without vast utilitarian value to the world. If, as Scott's friends at home believe, and believe with reason, he designs to press into the unknown beyond the pole, and push across the continent to a point opposite Cape Horn, obviously, in case of triumph, his will, in many respects, have eclipsed Amundsen's achievements. Such a march opens up a vision of interplanetary, of perseverence, of fortitude and of test of human endurance and ambition, at once intensely fascinating, and having few, if any, realizations in the previous history of human adventure.

It also is a forecast not merely of the possibility, but of the probability of disclosing immense material fruits as represented in the domains of Scientific phenomena bearing on winds, currents and electrical disturbances, and of hidden natural wealth. A conquest of the region beyond the pole, with even partial reaping of the fruits indicated, would crown Scott as the most famous of all who have yet essayed polar subjugation to man's insatiable thirst for knowledge, daring, unconquerable spirit of enterprise, and ever increasing determination to make the forces of nature his servants, wherever and in whatever form they may oppose him.

## THE SEARCH FOR MEN.

The voters of Richmond are looking for leadership. They are keenly awake to the magnitude of the issues involved in the proper selection of men to serve on the new Administrative Board. On the streets, in the clubs, or wherever men foregather, discussion is heard of how the city can best serve herself in the choice of her servants. This is an encouraging spirit in municipal affairs. The wide discussion of the importance of this matter can result only in a general demand that the broadest, biggest and best men offer themselves as candidates for the five places.

The gentlemen whose names have so far been proposed will find themselves the objects of the closest and most discriminating scrutiny. This is fitting and proper. No business firm would consider intrusting its gravest interests to men whose records had not been thoroughly investigated and found to promise the intelligent and efficient conduct of the matters to be under their control. And no man who is not willing that his record should be his platform and his petition for the suffrage of his fellow-citizens can be of calibers large enough to answer the needs. Past good deeds are the best promises of future accomplishment. The selection of executives is no matter for going it blind or relying on hearsay or personal appeal. The abilities of the candidates, their past services, their initiative, force and energy, will furnish material for an almost scientific valuation of their probable worth to the city.

It is certain that five men who can fulfill the requirements do exist. It is not impossible to bring pressure to bear upon them to make them realize the duty of offering themselves. The money to be paid is certainly enough to get able men in the field. The honor of serving upon this first board and of helping to make it a success cannot be without weight. And the fear that it may prove a certain failure unless the right personnel is secured should prove incentive toward getting the personnel right.

The people of Richmond realize that this is a transition period in its history, a time of growth, change and expansion. The very prosperity of the city demands the right guidance, for both present and future good. And the people feel the potential value of the board and will insist upon using that value to the fullest extent. The five men can be found. Their abilities can be demonstrated. And he will be a bold spirit who will doubt that the five right men could find of election by popular acclaim.

## THE HERBS OF SPRING.

Man, like other animals, seems to have a natural craving for green things to eat in spring. His body longs for the soil. He not only wants to get close to mother earth, but actually to incorporate in himself some of the tonic qualities of her manifold herbs. He calls for lettuce at the restaurant, and even commits new onions and the wrathful radish. And many a harassed business man dreams over his desk while in mind he rests on the steps or on a cold country house in the quiet dusk, listening to the peaceful chirp of young frogs and tracing the faint face of

new leaves against the afterglow. To his mind's eye—nose, rather—comes the sweetest fragrance known to man, that royal and mingled aroma of wood-smoke, frying bacon and hot coffee. And his lips grow wet, and perhaps his eyes too, at the memory of cornbread and greens. Greens! the savory herbs of spring that satisfy some primal instinct lingering from ancient days.

There may be some finicky epicures who do not love the earthy flavor and succulence of this simple product of Nature's chemistry. They do not know that the sun and the rain, and most likely a little starlight, and a few bird songs are joined in dandelions and lamb's quarter to bring man in touch again with growing things. They are not so much food as they are a symbol. They put man in his proper place in the world as a simple sort of creature that for all of his learning and culture can find life in the very leaves under his feet. All he needs is to pick them and find water and a fire, and if his taste be not dulled by the sauces and trimmings of an effete cookery, he finds an appetite for a natural feast.

The moral of this is that people need a good many things not listed in the books. In spring the body undergoes some kind of a rebirth that depends upon being in tune with the growing calls of life. Spring fever is a symptom of the same feeling. Going fishing is another. And it is a good thing to yield to the gentle and beneficent influences, deeper than any lessons of a careful science, and find in simple living an open sesame to simple thinking and fine feeling.

## A VANISHED COMMITTEE.

What has become of the subcommittee of the Council appointed to hold hearings and make a report on the Richmond Public Library? At the last meeting it failed to get a quorum because of the illness of some of the members. We trust that these gentlemen have recovered and that the deferred hearing will soon be announced. The offer of \$15,000 by a public-spirited citizen awaits some definite action. It is difficult to believe that this offer will endure forever in the face of an apparent lack of interest on the part of the City Fathers. Indeed, it seems that courtesy, if po other sentiment, should dictate an immediate response to the generosity manifested by the promised benefactor. It will certainly not be encouraging to other possible donors to the common good if this offer be met with scanty appreciation.

This seeming indifference on the part of the committee does not reflect a similar indifference in those most concerned in the matter of beginning public library work in Richmond. They are ready and anxious to present the needs, the benefits and the possibilities of this work. At the meeting that failed of a quorum, representatives from many various organizations of established usefulness were on hand to urge the necessity of library facilities. They still wait an opportunity to be heard. Doubtless the members of the Council are very busy, particularly as the elections are not far distant. Yet some of them find time to devote to long and laborious sessions in investigating the conduct of the schools. Cannot this vanished committee so arrange its duties as to give some hours to considering this other and broader kind of education, that is no less valuable and important in the life of the community?

The Houston Post is, as usual, more interested in pretty maidens than in the plain truth. It says: "A Chicago doctor declares that every bachelor whose income amounts to \$20 or more a week ought to adopt a baby. That's right. A girl baby about twenty years of age, with a knowledge of cooking." It's perfectly plain that a man with a baby like that wouldn't have an income of \$20 a week.

The three famous smiles of history are all extinct. The grin of the Cheshire Cat slowly glimmered into nothingness; Mona Lisa will trouble our souls no more with the dim lure of her serpentine lips; the toothful grimace of Theodore is lost in gloom. Only the smiling face of nature is left.

This from the Charleston News: "A New Yorker says that Charleston is a very beautiful city. Aye, it is the best site in America." Perhaps they will build a town on it some day.

Maybe the woman who flew across the English Channel in an air craft was in a hurry to get her Easter hat.

## Abe Martin



Blamed few things look as shiftless as a man behind a stove. His hand nothing as deceiving as a party lead pencil.

## On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

Regime.  
 He has got the neighbors in a hub.  
 That kid next door with the ragtime stuff.

He pounds all night and he pounds all day.  
 And ragtime is all that he can play.  
 To ragtime all of the gospel hymns.  
 Is one of his most peculiar whims;  
 There's not a tune on the list to-day  
 That he can't manage to syncope.  
 There's naught too solemn and naught  
 To grand.

For slaughter beneath his ruthless hand.  
 He's got the neighbors on the top  
 He'll walk ragtime. Just can't stop.  
 His domination is complete.  
 We chew in ragtime when we eat.  
 In ragtime we chop all our wood.  
 They call it the ragtime neighborhood.  
 He knows no pity and knows no fear.  
 His ragtime music is all we hear.  
 We never know when a car goes past.  
 We can't distinguish an auto's blast.  
 A brass band coming down the street  
 Would simply have to admit defeat.  
 A cannon exploding in our block  
 Would never give us the slightest shock.

If you ever move may the Fates forbid  
 That you move next door to a ragtime kid.

To the Junebug.  
 O' beautiful bird with plumage bright,  
 Who in the reaches of the night  
 Makes merry 'round the old arc light.  
 To thee I sing.  
 I dedicate this bit of lore  
 To thee, sweet bird, for nigh before  
 Has any one grown madder o'er  
 Yourself, poor thing.

You buzz around my old bald head  
 When I seek rest within my bed  
 And sing until the east is red.  
 Your siren song.

With the mosquito and the flea  
 You make the life worth while to me.  
 'Twould not be summer without thee  
 And thy gay throng.

Things That Make Life Worth Living.  
 Having the life insurance premium,  
 The rent and the lodge dues become  
 Payable simultaneously.

Getting up in the night and stepping  
 On one of those cute little tin trains  
 of cars.

Getting a telegram that a second  
 cousin and nine children will arrive on  
 the next train to spend the summer.

Going with your wife to a high-brow  
 lecture on "Maeterlinck's Influence on  
 the Modern Drama."

Climbing into the full bathtub and  
 finding that there is no soap or towels.

Impossibilities.  
 The gentleman who invented the remark  
 to the general effect that there  
 is nothing impossible in this world  
 never tried to—

Uncover the top of a pickle jar with  
 his bare hands.

Have a good night's sleep in a home-  
 mock.

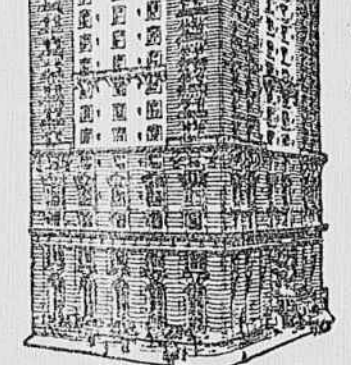
Get rid of red ants in the pantry.  
 Find a neighborhood that is entirely  
 congenial—one without a phonograph.

Get a good square meal at a banquet.  
 Talk anything but business with a  
 life insurance agent.

Find a hotel clerk without a diamond  
 ring on his finger.

Pick up a paper without reading  
 something about Lorimer.

Hook his wife up the back in less  
 than half an hour.

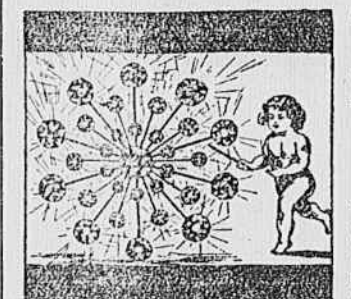


## HOTEL GOTHAM

A Hotel of refined  
 elegance, located in  
 New York's social centre  
 Easily accessible to  
 theatre and shopping  
 districts

Single rooms with bath—\$12.50 to \$30.00  
 Double rooms with bath—\$15.00 to \$30.00  
 Double rooms with bath—\$15.00 to \$30.00  
 SPECIAL DISCOUNTS 25% to 50%  
 MAY to OCTOBER

Wetherbee &amp; Wood

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NEW YORK CITY

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The Birth Stone for April

We have just received a large  
 shipment of beautiful stones,  
 and are offering them at very  
 low prices, so if you want to get  
 a bargain in a Diamond call  
 and see our stock at once.

OPTICIANS—GLASSES FITTED CORRECTLY.

J. S. JAMES,  
Incorporated

"THE DIAMOND MERCHANTS,"

Seventh and Main Streets.

We Will be Glad to Open Accounts with Reliable Persons.

R. L. Barnes Safe & Lock Co., Inc.  
Manufacturers and Dealers

In everything in Safes, Vaults and Bank Vault Fittings. Special line  
 of Safes, standard fireproof, from \$20 up. Old safes taken in part pay-  
 ment of new purchase. Sketches, catalogues and prices cheerfully fur-  
 nished on the smallest to largest items.

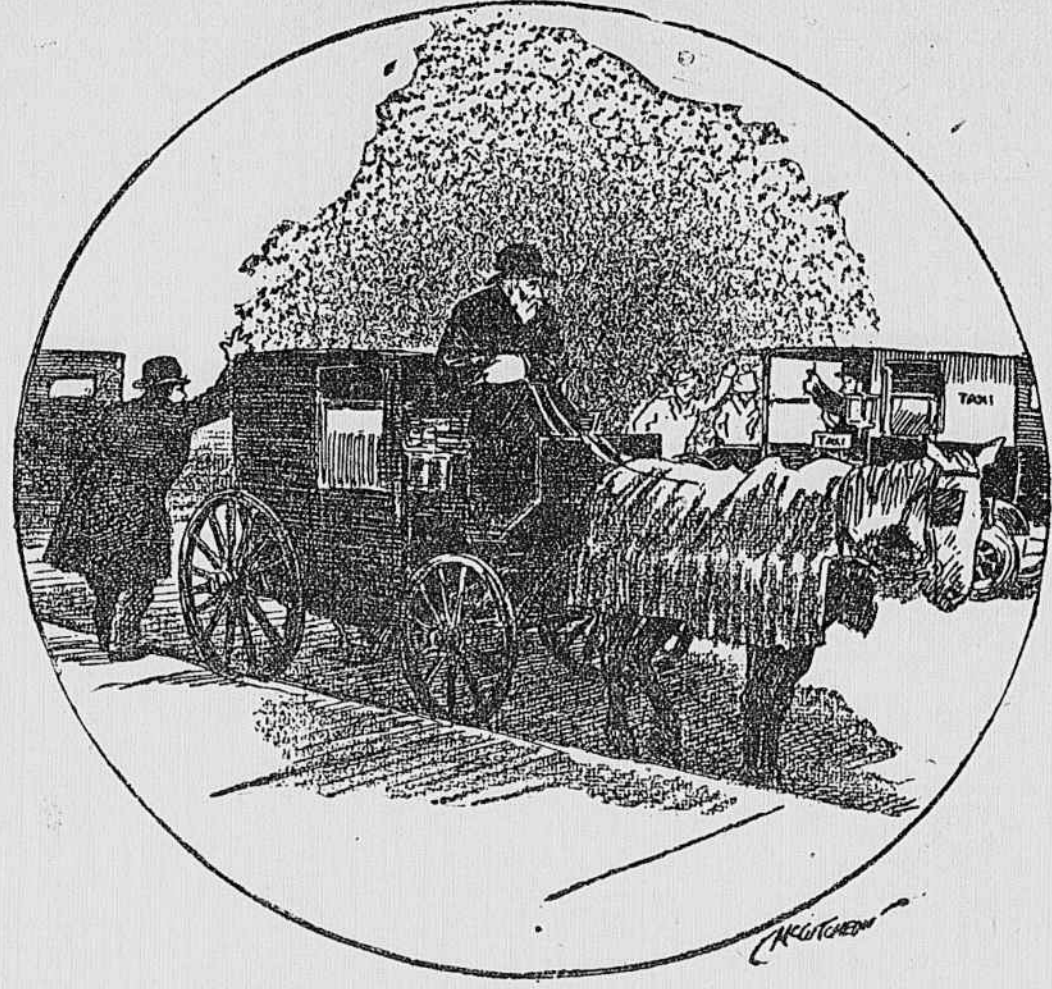
R. T. LIPSCOMBE, Sales Manager,

9-11-13 South Eighth Street, Richmond, Va.

## A VICTIM OF PROGRESS.

By John T. McCutcheon.

[Copyright, 1912, by John T. McCutcheon.]



## QUERIES &amp; ANSWERS

## Mason Presidents.

Please inform me which Presidents  
 of the United States were Masons.  
 BLUE LODGE.

Washington, Jackson, Polk, Buchanan,  
 Johnson, Garfield, McKinley, Roosevelt,  
 Taft.

Mountain Trout.  
 Are there left in Virginia any streams  
 haunted by the mountain trout? This  
 beautiful game fish seems to have been  
 driven from all the places which I  
 have visited in search of it.  
 E. C. TRICE.

As Wordsworth's "Maid of Dove," the  
 mountain trout dwells among the un-  
 trodden ways. He seems to breathe  
 an air tainted with the gowgaw twidle.

## Commission Government.

Please name several cities which are  
 now governed by commission and sug-  
 gest to whom I may write for full  
 information.  
 W. E. THOMAS.

Birmingham, Ala.; Sacramento, Cal.;  
 Springfield, Ill.; Burlington, Ia.; Kan-  
 sas City, Kan.; Lynn, Mass.; Omaha,  
 Neb.; letter to the City Com-  
 mission at any of these places may bring  
 you the desired.

Historical.  
 Please tell me who Mrs. Alex. Spots-  
 wood was, and where the Nottingham  
 settled in Virginia.  
 J. S. MAPP.

Anne Butler Bryan. Accomme.

Legal.  
 A wife dies, leaving property real  
 and personal devised to her by her  
 husband, who survives. She leaves  
 minor children. Has the husband any  
 rights in her estate, and may he become  
 guardian to the children and use the  
 property for their support without  
 appointment as guardian by a court?  
 DAILY READER.

He has. He may.

Pearls.  
 I have found some small oysters  
 which I suppose to be in some  
 oysters I was eating. Where may I  
 find out about their value?  
 E. G. SCHUBERT.

If the oysters were cooked the pearls  
 have no value. Almost any jeweler  
 could tell you.

A Date.  
 Please tell me what day of the week  
 was October 5, 1867.  
 CARRIE B.  
 Monday.

Railways.  
 Please give names of European coun-  
 tries which own the railways.

QUERY.  
 The Interstate Commerce Com-  
 mission declares that they have no in-  
 formation covering the matter. It is the  
 impression that railways are owned  
 by the government in Switzerland and  
 Russia and nowhere else.

Sunday School Terms.  
 Please give the meanings of "Bar-  
 nabe" and "Philathas" as used in our  
 Sunday schools.

Brotherhood and love towards God.

The Mayflower.  
 Does any one know what finally be-  
 came of the vessel the Mayflower?  
 L. B. C.

It is said to have been used at last  
 as a slave ship.

A Quotation.  
 Please tell me the author of the quo-  
 tation "There is none so blind as he  
 who will not see."  
 A. G.

Mathew Henry, the old commen-  
 tator, says "None so blind as those that  
 will not see."

William Linn.  
 Please give dates of birth and death  
 of William Linn, the great Presbyte-  
 rian divine.  
 A. W. L.  
 1752, 1808.

Population.  
 Please state the number of people in  
 Ann Arbor, Mich., and in Madison, Wis.  
 P. S. L.  
 14,317, 25,531.

EXPERT EVIDENCE.  
 Scientist Feeds Rats to Determine  
 Value of Meat as Diet.

Stanford University, Cal., April 4.—  
 Professor James Rollin Stonaker,  
 of the department of physiology at the  
 university, has decided that the vege-  
 tarian of the species has less endur-  
 ance and energy than the meat eater.  
 His conclusion is founded on unique  
 experiments just completed.

By the use of rats confined in cages  
 with speedometers attached, the pro-  
 fessor discovered that in twenty-five  
 months a meat-eating female rat ran  
 3,447 miles, while a vegetarian female  
 rat covered only 447 miles.

The meat-eating male covered some-  
 thing like 4,000 miles less than the  
 female, but led the vegetarian male  
 by 1,200 miles on the treadmill.

The meat-eating female traveled  
 5,447 miles and the male 1,447, while  
 the vegetarian female covered 447 and  
 the male 200.

of the cockney Walton and loves to  
 yield his giant life to the malicious  
 barbed backwoods boy and that ar-  
 tillery of rusty hook and angleworm  
 lived last in Arcady. Hum, tult, and  
 there was a Piny Run, tributary to  
 the Tye, in Nelson, and a rivulet  
 down by the foot of Vassalus, the  
 cold, foaming along the breast of old  
 White Top, in Grayson. From these  
 waters a creek of sixty or seventy  
 speckled beauties might have been  
 taken in a blissful day, but all the  
 loven of yesterday are dead.

Commission Government.  
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DEVELOPS FOUR-LEAF CLOVER.  
 Botanist Produces "Good Luck Plant"

After Years of Experiment  
 New York, April 4.—After nineteen  
 years of experiment, Max Schling, a  
 Brooklyn botanist, has developed a  
 "good luck" clover plant, which pro-  
 duces four leaves on every stem, in-  
 stead of the traditional three. The

result was obtained by hybridization  
 from the oaxalis, a species which had  
 three leaves, and at times five. Na-  
 ture was finally trained to system-  
 ically add or subtract one leaf until  
 the desired quartet of leaves appears  
 in every instance. The plant is taller  
 than the one from which it was  
 evolved, and the leaves are banded and  
 have a graceful poise.

Commission Government.